

DEDICATORY EXERCISES HELD FOR ALVAH N. BELDING LIBRARY

MAMMOTH CROWD WITNESSES THE PRESENTATION OF FINE NEW
EDIFICE TO CITY TUESDAY AFTERNOON

MR. BELDING WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE EXERCISES

Was Driven to Big Tent For Few Minutes to Greet Crowd Assembled in His
Honor. Senator Wm. Alden Smith Was Speaker

Belding's citizenship, business houses, factories and all lines of industry stopped Tuesday afternoon to do honor to Alva N. Belding donor of the new library edifice, on the occasion of its dedication and presentation to the city. A perfect day permitted the fulfillment of every planned detail, the only feature marred by its completeness being the slight illness of Mr. Belding. He was able, however, to come to the large, completely packed chalet at a few minutes and greet the mammoth audience. In his absence his son, Fred N. Belding, acted for his father.

The platform was profusely decorated with potted and cut flowers and flags of the United States and her Allies. Seated upon it were the speakers of the day, representatives of the Belding Bros. & Co. interests from all over the United States and Canada. The program, as printed last week, was carried out in its entirety, except the presentation by Mr. Belding, which was handled by his son in a most creditable manner.

General E. C. Young, vice president of Belding Bros. & Co., in his address, "Ideals," reviewed the early life of the donor and his parents and enlarged upon the noble worth of his influence to this community. His address was masterful and sincerely received by everyone.

In presenting the keys to the library for his father, Fred N. Belding, was most sincere and emotional. His act was especially touching as symbolizing the inherent pride in the city's welfare always displayed by his father. In fact, he said he almost wished that he was giving the library himself. In addition to the keys and deed to the property Mr. Belding gave the city a government bond of \$1000 the interest from which is to be used in the upkeep of the library grounds.

Mayor E. E. Fales accepted the gifts for the city in an efficient way and expressed the sincere appreciation of every citizen. He then presented the donor, through the son, with an engraved copy of the official resolution of acceptance passed by the common council at a recent meeting.

H. J. Leonard, Dr. G. F. Smith and E. C. Lloyd were other speakers of the day, each bringing some message to the people to make the day long to be remembered. Rev. W. A. Biss, and Rev. P. Ray Norton also assisted in the service. The male quartette from the Fountain Street Baptist church, Grand Rapids, and the City Band, delighted with several selections.

The principal address of the afternoon was given by Hon. Wm. Alden Smith. He paid the highest tribute to the thousands of boys in the American armies today. After enlarging upon the grave situation confronting the world and upon the past activities of Mr. Belding, Senator Smith asserted that "there never was a time in the life of Mr. Belding, now over eighty, that is so vital to this country and all its interests as now. Germany will offer peace plan after peace plan.

in an effort to gain a vantage in the world settlement. But the United States and the Allies will be content with nothing less than complete victory for democracy. There is nothing greater than to die for one's country. Such a death is not really death. It is Patriotic Immortality. Right here and now I want to suggest to the governing board of the library that a record book be kept, started now, in which the name, address and branch of service of every boy going out from Ionia County is recorded. Also get their pictures if possible and collect all the flags under which these boys march and fight.

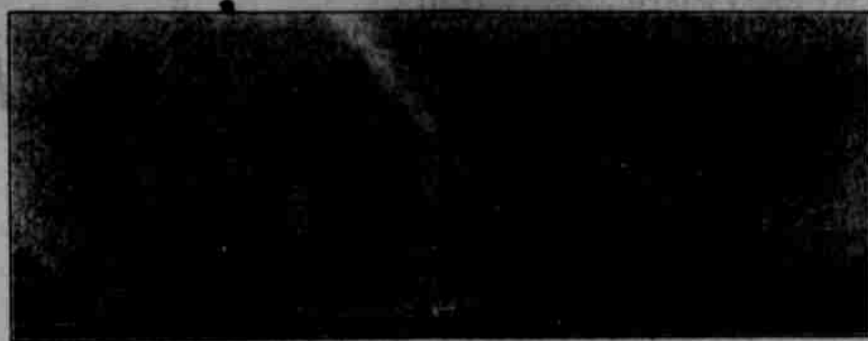
"Then, I have another suggestion. I would urge young Mr. Belding to have produced, an oil painting, life size, of his father. Have it framed and hung in the new library which honors his name. He can do it and should do it. The son is young and has opportunities and yet age, such as a donor's ripe years, is also opportunity no less. It is only clothed in different dress. I hope Mr. Belding may be spared to come again and again and to enjoy the fruits of his worthy life."

A communication was read by Chairman Dr. J. H. Armstrong from Fred N. Belding in which he inclosed a check for \$1000 to be used in purchasing books for the edifice. Another communication from Mrs. Florence Belding Knuckels carried a \$100 check and an endorsement for ten years for a like amount for the same purpose. President Geo. E. Wagner of the library board accepted the donations and also told of the receipt of the museum of the late C. M. Slayton.

Near the close of the program a mammoth bouquet of American Beauty roses was presented to Mr. Belding (Fred N. as proxy) from the schools by Miss Mildred Shores. Young Mr. Belding was almost overcome by the presentation, but was able to express thanks in no uncertain terms. The roses were later taken to the hotel and given to Mr. Belding, who was deeply moved and asked several times for the young lady that he might personally thank her in words to carry back to her associates. Immediately after the close of the program a meeting of the members of the board of commerce was called in the hotel where President R. H. Hall presented Mr. Belding with a gold headed cane as an additional mark of appreciation.

Following the exercises of the day the library was thrown open for inspection and hundreds availed themselves of the opportunity. An orchestra furnished music throughout the afternoon and evening. It was the unanimous sentiment of the visitors that too much praise cannot be given Frank P. Allen & Son, architects for the beautiful designs in the plan of the building and Charles Hoertz & Son, builders, for the thorough manner in which the building was erected; and especially to Mr. Belding for the magnificent building that will stand as a monument to his philanthropy and commendable character.

Belding's New Public Library



Belding City and its citizenship will henceforth take a backseat to no other town or city when heralding the excellency and value of its handsome new public library presented to the municipality by Alva N. Belding, Tuesday afternoon, May 14. The Alva N. Belding Library stands second to none regardless of size and location. It is a supreme monument of excellence that will immortalize his name to future generations. It will stand as a lasting memorial of the true worth of the donor and his sincere interest in the future educational and moral welfare of Belding's citizens. His gracious act places Mr. Belding head and shoulders above every other resident as Belding's first former citizen.

As the visitor approaches the handsome new library he is impressed with the completeness of its exterior. Set on the banks of Flat River, with rear windows overlooking the stream, it is still brought within the limits of the city's business section by fronting upon a wide paved Main street. Directly in front of Hanover street, which street is the natural entry to the city by automobile from Ionia, Lansing, Detroit and other Eastern points, every traveler will be impressed at once with the substantial thrift of the city and its industries.

Neatly graded lawns are starting around the building proper. As you mount the spacious steps leading to the main entrance, the massive pillars of Ionic Architecture, prepares the observers to at once expect a combination of the more solid and delicate in the building's appointment. Burnished copper light posts surmount the granite caps to pilasters. Over the door is inscribed in gothic letters ALVAH N. BELDING LIBRARY A. D. 1917.

Entering the doors inlaid with mahogany you come immediately within a vestibule finished in marble. On the wall to the right of the entrance is a heavy bronze tablet bearing the following inscription.

This Library
was erected in the year 1917 by
ALVAH N. BELDING
as a memorial to his Father and Mother
HIRAM BELDING
and
MARY WILSON BELDING
It was dedicated to their memory on May 15, 1918
and presented to the City of Belding, Michigan.

To the left is a commodious cloak room where wraps may be left before entering the lobby. Then passing through massive glass paneled doors you are within the lobby. Over the doors just entered are the life size pictures of Hiram and Mary Wilson Belding, and between them is hung one of Alva N. Belding, the donor. Immediately to the left is a porcelain drinking fountain. A comfortable settee in the middle enables the visitor to be comfortable while viewing the room. Across the lobby from the entrance is the librarian's desk, built in as part of the building. It is provided with lights, drawers, a swivel chair and all things necessary for efficient work. To her back is a series of five large racks, almost completely filling the stack room. Over her head ticks a large built in clock.

Passing to the left we enter a large reading room, fully equipped with broad tables and comfortable chairs. All available space around the wall is taken up with book and magazine racks. Over the low down radiators window seats have been built, upholstered with leathered cushions. The windows in the room, as in all the others, are draped with rich green draperies fringed with silk and operating almost automatically. To the rear of the magazine room you enter, through heavy inlaid doors, enriched with oval glass centers a small reading room bearing an air of privacy and restfulness. The furnishings and outlook to the river lend an additional feeling that here the thoughtful will want to retreat when delving into the heavier volumes within the buildings compass.

Reentering the front lobby we pass to the east room, where shelving and furniture is very similar to the magazine room. Here the chairs and desks are lower, to serve the juvenile interests. Plenty of light is shed down onto the desks by overhanging chandeliers. The later are of the inverted type and are of heavy hammered brass and opaque china. Here too window seats provide secluded places for more careful reading.

To the rear of the juvenile room we enter, through doors inlaid with mahogany, the librarian's office. Over the flat desk is a convenient light. Office chairs, waste baskets and other paraphernalia afford every convenience. A cloak room is along the west wall and to the rear of this a toilet room is fully equipped. A convenient passage leads to stock room and librarian's desk. Within the passage is an entrance to the basement.

Leaving the librarian's room we return to the front vestibule, where a door is found leading to the basement. Descending we find ourselves in another small lobby. Going to the right we find a room set apart for the museum (contributed by the late Chester M. Slayton). Another door leads to the furnace and fuel room. To the north of the lobby is a large assembly room furnished with cane seated folding chairs. This room is accessible from the side through a broad alley which connects with outside doors on the east side of the building. When the chairs are cleared the floor of hard maple, becomes an excellent place for dancing if desired.

To the east of the assembly room and lobby and also connected to the east outside entrance is the ladies' room. This is furnished with rich rugs, bamboo and wicker chairs stands, desks, waste baskets, etc. The upholstery of the furniture adds to the restful atmosphere which fills every piece of the room's equipment. By opening the doors into the lobby and also the doors into the assembly room a speaker may address the occupants of both rooms with complete satisfaction. This gives space for holding a large gathering if desired. Under the front entrance and accessible from the basement lobby are the toilet rooms for men and women.

The building is constructed of Bedford [Ind.] cut limestone roofed with the best tiling obtainable. The floors are of concrete and covered with heavy battleship linoleum. The finish of the interior woodwork and furniture is silver grey. Marble baseboards add to the grandure of the librarian's desk and the interior pillars. The whole structure presents an air of individuality that takes it away from the usual type common to so many cities. Words cannot half describe the elegance of Mr. Belding's gift, neither can the people express their appreciation too strongly to him for his generosity.

DORIC CHAPTER O. E. S. INSTALL NEW OFFICES

Following a sumptuous six-thirty supper in the dining rooms, Doric Chapter No. 75 O. E. S. installed officers for the ensuing year at their meeting Tuesday evening. A very enjoyable evening was spent and the work of the year under the new officers started with bright prospects. The officers installed were as follows: Worthy matron, Mildred Brown; worthy patron, Fred Rodgers; associate matron, Alta Arnold; secretary, Bessie Peterson; treasurer, Mina Haviland; conductress, Mary Purdy; associate conductress, Effie Frederick; chaplain, Hattie Weaver; marshal, Edith Burris; Adah, Augusta Dimmick; Ruth, Mary Wright; Esther, Mildred Elaby; Martha, Mabel Wells; Electa, Myrtle Hubbell; warder, Edna Rogers; sentinel, Will Haviland; organist, Flossie Cook.

WAR INDUSTRIAL TRAINING NEEDED FOR BEST SUCCESS

BIG INSTITUTE HELD IN GRAND
RAPIDS. BIG INSTITUTE OPENS
MAY FIFTEENTH

The patriotic mass meeting of the War Industrial Training Institute held at the armory, in Grand Rapids, was all the success its managers anticipated.

On the night of the meeting more than 3,000 men—not curiosity seekers, but men vitally interested in the meeting—were on hand. Prof. Geo. E. Myers, professor of industrial education at the University of Michigan, gave them some plain facts about the Government's needs. A. P. Johnson made a patriotic address in which he urged the men to become skilled mechanics; Lee H. Bierce, secretary of the Association of Commerce acted as chairman, and Private John A. Redding, one of General Pershing's heroes, just back from the front line trenches, gave an interesting talk of the fight in France. Miss Flora Overly and the The Press and Furniture city bands furnished the musical program.

The War Industrial Training Institute will open May 15, and in the meantime enrollment will continue. From present indications the classes will be completed long before the date of opening, and as only 500 men can be taken on at first, those who get in the first applications, will be the first to be fitted for preferred positions in the army.

E. F. U. GAVE FINE PATRIOTIC PROGRAM

At the meeting of the Equitable Fraternal Union held recently for the purpose of raising funds for the Red Cross there were about 100 members and guests present to enjoy the occasion and listen to the patriotic program.

State manager of the order, J. H. Ellis, was present and gave a fine address on fraternal societies with especial emphasis in the interests of the E. F. U.

Judge Haight of Lansing gave a talk along war lines and W. F. Brickner urged the purchasing of Thrift Stamps as being one of the ways in which every one could help and "do their bit" in winning the war. The program was interspersed with music and song. Refreshments were served and a general good time indulged in. Edward Belding was the lucky guest to whom the five dollar Thrift Stamp was awarded.

Library Opening

The new Alva N. Belding Library will be open to the public beginning this week Saturday, afternoon and evening. The present library books and magazines will be moved to the new building and ready for use at that time. Open hours will remain the same: 3:00 to 5:30 and 7:00 to 9:00 p. m., daily, except Sunday.

Mary Barnes, Librarian.

ANNUAL ORCHESTRA CONCERT AND JARVIS LYON RECITAL MAY 17

THIRD BIG EVENT WILL BE
HELD IN OPERA HOUSE FRI-
DAY NIGHT. ATTEND!

The next big event in Belding will be the Third Annual Symphony Orchestra Concert and Jarvis-Lyon Recital, which comes in the opera house this week Friday evening. The management of the recital is under heavy expense, over \$200, and a large crowd is necessary to meet it. One of the former concerts sustained a loss and the other barely made expenses. However, a concert and recital such as this is most enlightening and beneficial to a city and should be maintained. Should there be a surplus this year the balance will be applied on the expense of the next concert.

Harold Jarvis is noted all over the United States as a tenor and has never failed to delight his audiences. His accompanist and reader, Miss Mary Lyon, is equally well liked by her hearers everywhere. The orchestra will be composed of Michigan's best talent.

Tickets may be procured at Sparks & Gamber's or Wortley & French's stores.

SANDELL'S BANK HAS STARTED POULTRY CLUB

A backyard poultry contest has been started by Sandell's Bank. It is open to school children, the general public and the farmer. They are divided into classes competing for different prizes. The contest is now open and will not close until October 1, next year.

Employees of the bank will be glad to explain the contest and give every contestant a complete, authoritative booklet on the care of poultry. The movement is started to aid the government in producing more food stuffs. Besides being healthful work and remunerative it is ultra patriotic and should receive much favorable attention. Ask the bank for full explanation.

OTISCO RED CROSS DRIVE COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the directors of the Ionia County Red Cross Chapter, for the purpose of organizing for the war fund drive the week of May 20-27, the apportionment of the \$16,000 to be raised, there was apportioned to the township of Otisco \$400.

The following committees have been appointed for the work in each school district, who will make a house to house canvass that Otisco township may not be numbered among the slackers, thereby failing to do her whole duty by our boys at and going to the front for humanity and right: Mr. and Mrs. Verne LaDow, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zahm, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Condon, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Jenks, Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Moon, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kemp, Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Cook.

Last week, says the Ionia Sentinel, under Red Cross notes: "One of the most generous contributions received by Mayor Green for the special \$3,500 Red Cross Deficit fund was a check for \$165, which came yesterday from Maj. Frank R. Chase of Smyrna and which covered contributions from people living in Otisco township, in or near Smyrna and Cook's Corners."

Board of Commerce Election
The annual election of the Board of Commerce officers will be held in the city hall auditorium May 21, 1918, 6:30 p. m. Luncheon committee, Earl Wilson, Secretary F. A. Puffer.

F. & A. M. Communication
Special communication of Belding Lodge No. 355 F. & A. M. Thursday evening, May 16 for work in the EA degree. A. B. Foss, W. M.

CALL FOR MORE MEN NEXT WEEK

The next call for men will be during the week commencing May 25. During this period Ionia county will send 37 men either to Camp Custer or to Camp Wheeler in Georgia, definite instructions on this point have not yet been received. The list itself is not yet completed, but the names of Forrest Beemer, Homer G. E. McIntosh, Ernest Turner, Arthur N. Hanses, Geo. H. Trimble, Geo. L. Everhart, and Wm. Case of Belding, and Rudolph Laux of Smyrna, are in the list.

CHARITY BALL FOR THE HOSPITAL

The ladies interested in the city hospital have arranged to give a charity ball Wednesday evening, May 29 in Crawford hall, the proceeds of which are to be used in replenishing the treasury of that worthy institution. The music for the ball will be fine, and the bill is only seventy-five cents. The ladies are anticipating a large attendance.

Chester O. Lyon Dead

Old friends in this locality of Mrs. Elma Lyon of Ashtabula, Ohio, have received word of the death of her husband, Chester Otis Lyon, which occurred recently at his home in that city. He was married to Elma C. Keeler of Oakfield township, Kent County, February 16, 1887.

Besides his wife he leaves five children, Lena M. Geary, Gertrude E. Steiner, Chester A., Harry T., and Clarence O. Lyon. Mrs. Lyon owns the Gooding block in this city and has been a resident of Ohio for many years and up to a few years ago was a frequent visitor here.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR MRS. WILL WHITE

Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Will White were held in the Church of Christ Friday afternoon, Rev. H. S. Ellis, officiating.

The remains of Mrs. White were brought here from Detroit for burial, where she died Tuesday, May 7.

Mrs. White, whose maiden name was Jennie L. Chapman, was thirty-two years, seven months, and seven days old. She was born in England and when her parents came to America they went to Greenville to reside. For the past year she has been in poor health, being confined to her bed several weeks.

The family went to Detroit to reside about eight years ago and she had a very large circle of friends there. She was a member of the Pythian Sisters and also affiliated in a social way with the order of the Eastern Star. Many beautiful flowers covered the casket from Detroit friends and friends here.

Besides her husband, she leaves three children, Gertrude, sixteen years old, Walter, ten, and Ellen six. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Chapman and son, George, Jr., and Mrs. Nellie Timerson were here to attend the funeral. A brother, Sergeant Joseph Chapman, is on his way to France. Much sympathy is expressed for the family over her taking away at this time in life.

Ben White, father of Will, has returned to Detroit with the family and will hereafter make his home there.

Roy A. Reynolds and his daughter, Elizabeth, of Chicago, were the guests of his mother, Mrs. J. Ward Wells, a few days last week, returning home Sunday evening. Mr. Reynolds is still with the Sears Roebuck & Company and is holding down a very responsible position as general manager of the shoe business of the company.

What the Red Cross Does

OVER and over again Red Cross solicitors in any campaign for membership or funds are asked the question: "What does the Red Cross do?"

The Red Cross work is not only the making of socks and sweaters and surgical bandages, nor the providing of nurses, physicians and hospital supplies. Such medical aid and hospital work, those sweaters, socks and wristlets made in million quantities by earnest women for our soldiers and sailors are important, but beyond that there is the great Red Cross work of looking after the families of men who need help. The quiet work of encouragement, the benefit of advice, sympathy and fellowship is given from the heart and without publicity. Such help is as important as any financial aid which is shown in the report of "What Has Been Done With the First War Fund."

WAR FUND APPROPRIATIONS UP TO MARCH 1st, 1918

Foreign Relief:	
Relief in France.....	\$30,936,103.04
Relief in Belgium.....	2,086,131.00
Relief in Russia.....	1,243,845.07
Relief in Roumania.....	2,676,568.76
Relief in Italy.....	3,588,826.00
Relief in Serbia.....	875,180.76
Relief in Other Foreign Countries.....	3,575,800.00
Relief for Prisoners, etc.....	343,304.00
Equipment and expenses of U. S. Personnel for Europe.....	113,800.00
Total Foreign Relief.....	\$47,325,609.38
United States Relief:	
U. S. Army Base Hospitals.....	\$ 54,000.00
U. S. Base Navy Base Hospitals.....	32,000.00
U. S. Medical and Hospital Work.....	531,000.00
U. S. Sanitary Service.....	408,000.00
U. S. Camp Service.....	6,451,150.86
U. S. Miscellaneous.....	1,118,748.41
Total U. S. Relief.....	\$ 8,589,899.27
Restricted as to use by Donor.....	\$ 2,520,409.57
Working capital for purchase of supplies for resale to Chapters or for shipment abroad.....	\$15,000,000.00
Working cash advances for France and United States.....	\$ 4,286,000.00
Total War Fund Appropriations.....	\$77,721,918.22